

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner required an election of a single disclosed "species" for each of the following groups of purported "species":

Group A - Cross-sectional shape of the support:
i) Teardrop - Figs. 2, 3, and 6
ii) Oval - Fig. 7
iii) Teeth - Figs. 4 and 5
iv) Rectangle - Fig. 8
v) Square - Fig. 9
vi) Geometric shape - Fig. 10

Group B - Location of the bristle split:
i) Outside support - Figs. 6, 7, and 8
ii) Inside support - Figs. 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10

Group C - Location of distal end of 1st row with respect to support:
i) Outside support - Figs. 2, 5, 6, and 8-10
ii) Inside support - Figs. 3 and 7

Group D - Location of opening for 2nd and 3rd row on support:
i) Aligned - Figs. 1-8 and 10
ii) Offset - Fig. 9

Group E - Overall shape of support:
i) Rectilinear - Fig. 1
ii) Curved - Fig. 17

Group F - Means for forming the support:
i) Overmolding - purportedly not shown
ii) Local molding - purportedly not shown

Group G - Direction of bristle openings:
i) Axially offset - Fig. 13
ii) Axially aligned - Fig. 4

Group H - Direction of bristle tufts:
i) Aligned perpendicular to the support - Fig. 15
ii) Offset from the perpendicular - Fig. 14.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the election requirement (e.g., because at least some of the asserted "species" may not necessarily be mutually exclusive from one another, and because the Office Action does not appear to provide

Applicant with an opportunity to elect between all disclosed species for each of the groups), Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the following "species":

- Group A - Cross-sectional shape of the support:
 - i) Teardrop - Figs. 2, 3, and 6
- Group B - Location of the bristle split:
 - ii) Inside support - Figs. 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10
- Group C - Location of distal end of 1st row with respect to support:
 - i) Outside support - Figs. 2, 5, 6, and 8-10
- Group D - Location of opening for 2nd and 3rd row on support:
 - i) Aligned - Figs. 1-8 and 10
- Group E - Overall shape of support:
 - i) Rectilinear - Fig. 1
- Group F - Means for forming the support:
 - i) Overmolding - purportedly not shown
- Group G - Direction of bristle openings:
 - ii) Axially aligned - Fig. 4
- Group H - Direction of bristle tufts:
 - i) Aligned perpendicular to the support - Fig. 15.

At least claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-18, 20, 21, 23-41, 43, 44, 46-53, 55, 56, and 58-68 appear to be "readable" on these elected "species." As indicated in the Office Action at p. 4, if a generic claim is allowed, withdrawn claims depending from the allowed generic claim should be rejoined and allowed.

Applicant notes that the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the disclosure and/or claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is mentioned above, Applicant declines to subscribe to any of such characterizations.

If a telephone conversation would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's counsel (phone number below).

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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